

Thibodaux, La., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Father,

Two mails have arrived since your last letter was received & there has been no letter for Harry or I. In your last letter you said you were not well. I feel very anxious lest your illness should have prevented your writing. If you are sick, which I hope & pray is not the case, please tell the folks to write & let us know for we are in a constant state of suspense.

There is nothing of much interest taking place in this Deptmt. The expedition to Sabine Pass has returned with a loss of two gunboats & some 150 men of the 75<sup>th</sup> N.Y. who were on board of them. The impression prevails in New Orleans that it was owing to Maj. Gen'l. [William Buel] Franklin showing the white feather & indeed it is rumored that he is placed under arrest for cowardice. This, however, can hardly be true for he (in the army of the Potomac) was high in command & much thought of by Maj. Genl. [Ambrose E.] Burnside.

I have been in New Orleans during the past week for two days trying to arrange my muster but so far have been unable to do so. I have not had a cent of pay for 8 months & do not know when I will have any. I am almost tired of waiting but suppose the matter will be fixed in some way or another.

I saw Joe Stephenson a couple of weeks ago & am sorry to say he does not look as well as usual. He has had the fever & ague for some time but is now pretty well over it or was when I saw him. His regiment is reorganizing for three years & it is very probable he will remain for that time.

General [Francis Jay] Herron had a fight near Port Hudson one day last week. He with 5,000 men attacked [Col. John] Logan (the Guerrilla of the southwest) who had a force of from 15 to 18,000 men. Herron was driven back to Port Hudson where he was reinforced & succeeded in driving Logan some 30 miles.

Harry [Tiemann] I have not seen for nearly a week. He is perfectly well. I have enjoyed pretty good health for the past month, but every little while I feel as though I would be laid up with the fever again, otherwise I am perfectly well.

Edward [Leslie Molineux] is enjoying very good health. I see by the papers that he had the honor of being drafted. This does not trouble him much however.

I suppose as soon as cool weather sets in there will be a forward movement. At present all the troops are lying quiet for it is still oppressively warm. All last week the thermometer stood from 88 to 90 in the shade with very little breeze to cool the atmosphere. We will soon have cool weather, I hope. The nights are very damp, a heavy mist falling immediately after sunset, which penetrates every thing. In the morning the grass is as wet as though it had rained heavily. There are quite a number of men sick, but not near as many as would be if this place were not as healthy as it is.

I have got acquainted with a number of Gentlemen, since being in camp here & find them to be a warm hearted, ardent, hospitable set of people. Of course they are tinged with secesh slightly, but if a man says he is from New York he is well received, whereas a New Englander, they will hardly speak to. I suppose if we stay here long enough I will get acquainted with the young ladies of whom there are quite a number all affecting the secesh with very few exceptions. It is said the prettiest girls in Louisiana come from this part of the country.

Hoping soon to hear from you that my fears in regard to your health are groundless,

I remain  
Your affectionate son  
Frank

I hope you received my photographs.  
Excuse the ink on the paper but every thing is covered with it & all my paper is the same way.

Love to all at home.